

Appendix B: Copies of Comments

This appendix contains all comments that were submitted by the public and agencies with interest in the Colorado River Bridge Study. A comment may have contained several different issues. The comments below are summarized under the appropriate resource area in Section 4.0, Colorado River Bridge Study Comments.

B.1 List of Commentors and Comment Numbers

Commentor and Affiliation	ID Number
Public workshop	P-001-01 through 133
Linda Whitham The Nature Conservancy	P-002-01 through 05
Jim Adamson Moab Health Department	P-003-01 through 06
Unidentified	P-004-01 through 03
Agency scoping meeting	A-001-01 through 15
Steven Parkin Utah Division of Air Quality	A-002-01
Gary Cornell Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands	A-003-01 through 03
John Harja RDCC	A-004-01 through 02
Casey Ford Utah Division of Water Rights	A-005-01 through 03
John Gilmore U.S. Department of Energy	A-006-01
Nick Mezei U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	A-007-01
Lowell Braxton Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining	A-008-01 through 03
Loren Morton Utah Division of Radiation Control	A-009-01 through 02
Nick Mezei U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	A-010-01 through 05
Henry R. Maddux U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	A-011-01 through 08

B.2 Reproductions of Written Comments

COMMENT NUMBER P001				COMMENT NUMBER P001			
Comment Number	Number of Comments/Priority	# of Individual votes	High Priority Issues				
P-001-01	1	12	Primary entrance to Moab	P-001-31	31	3	Signing for Archway Inn Frontage Road
P-001-02	2	9	Sidewalks and bike routes 400 W. - Campground	P-001-32	32	3	Maintain a natural landscape
P-001-03	3	9	Minimal and shielded lighting	P-001-33	33	3	Access to bike/ped paths on both sides of the highway
P-001-04	4	8	Welcoming design to make visitors want to come to Moab	P-001-34	34	3	Small Construction Footprint
P-001-05	5	7	A separate bike/pedestrian bridge is needed	P-001-35	35	3	Slowing traffic
P-001-06	6	7	Adequate and safe bike/pedestrian passage under/over/across the bridge	P-001-36	36	3	Consistent with gateway Plan (medians, landscaping)
P-001-07	7	7	Write access to the river-crossings and fencing	P-001-37	37	3	Turn lane at 400 W. - 800 W.
P-001-08	8	7	5 lanes for access to businesses	P-001-38	38	3	Pedestrian bridge the sooner the better
P-001-09	9	6	No landscaped median-loss a lane and wastes water	P-001-39	39	3	Bridge must be aesthetically pleasing for a tourist town
P-001-10	10	6	Quality of the water crossing the road-springs and storm water	P-001-40	40	3	Focus on seeing the river not the bridge
P-001-11	11	6	5 th West intersection needs to be considered. It will access the new hospital.	P-001-41	41	2	Drainage on north side east of bridge
P-001-12	12	6	Maintain traffic during construction	P-001-42	42	2	Has to meet the needs of the community by helping bikes and pods, but not impact landowners and business too much
P-001-13	13	6	Use existing bridge as pedestrian bridge both temporarily and permanently	P-001-43	43	2	Determine traffic impacts from Castle Valley
P-001-14	14	6	Paths (bike/ped) going off the way into town on both sides of the highway	P-001-44	44	2	US 191 should handle the growth.
P-001-15	15	5	Building one 2-lane bridge and repair the other bridge	P-001-45	45	2	Build a 4-lane or two 2-lane bridges
P-001-16	16	5	Lions park adjacent to the bridge needs to be considered in the study.	P-001-46	46	2	SR 128 access-left turn
P-001-17	17	5	4-lanes through the corridor	P-001-47	47	2	One of the few bridges in Utah.
P-001-18	18	4	Intersection of Hwy 128 and US 191	P-001-48	48	2	Maimony and other springs
P-001-19	19	4	Construction during off-peak seasons and days	P-001-49	49	2	Bi-directional non-motorized travel
P-001-20	20	4	Traffic calming measures from the north	P-001-50	50	2	Rock panel by courthouse wash
P-001-21	21	4	Incorporate the County Plan	P-001-51	51	2	Larger street signs
P-001-22	22	4	Mt Vista Drive Int.	P-001-52	52	2	Increased speed and noise with a 4-lane highway all the way
P-001-23	23	4	Ties into natural features	P-001-53	53	2	Use drainage problems vs landscaping asset
P-001-24	24	4	Boat traffic w/piers-retain access under bridge	P-001-54	54	2	Fill improvements within the right-of-way
P-001-25	25	3	Expect growth at north end of Moab	P-001-55	55	2	Threatened and endangered birds and fish
P-001-26	26	3	Safety north of bridge at boat ramp	P-001-56	56	2	Impact on wetlands
P-001-27	27	3	Safety need is critical	P-001-57	57	2	Protect Walters property by including bridge in park planning
P-001-28	28	3	Buses from SR 128 use the center lane for acceleration-need additional lanes	P-001-58	58	2	Big horn sheep fencing
P-001-29	29	3	Dust-revegetation	P-001-59	59	2	View from rafters/show bike/ped bridge
P-001-30	30	3	Increased truck noise and traffic for close home	P-001-60	60	2	Aesthetics more important than cost
				P-001-61	61	1	Bike access from Moab - Arches
				P-001-62	62	1	Need bike lane on east side
				P-001-63	63	1	Bridge at courthouse wash will have similar considerations (needs to be expanded)
				P-001-64	64	1	Safety concerning lane widths

P-001-65	65	1	Is leaving the existing bridge in place an option?
P-001-66	66	1	The bike/ped lanes walked off
P-001-67	67	1	Big Horn Sheep hits and watchers
P-001-68	68	1	More focus on Bikes and peds translates to less cars : less smog
P-001-69	69	1	Vintage look-Like Dewey
P-001-70	70	1	Color and lighting like surroundings
P-001-71	71	1	5-lanes
P-001-72	72	1	4-lanes with bike lane
P-001-73	73	1	Light pollution
P-001-74	74	1	Impacts on nearby businesses
P-001-75	75	1	Build on both sides of the existing bridge and widen to the middle using the existing structure
P-001-76	76	1	Highly impacted already-new impacts minimal
P-001-77	77	1	Hazardous waste site is limiting factor for alignment
P-001-78	78	1	Dust control from hazardous waste site
P-001-79	79	1	Preserve aesthetics
Comment Number	Number of Comments/Priority	# of Individual votes	Moderate Priority Issues
P-001-80	1	6	Protect petroglyphs-during construction, not so obvious signs
DUPLICATE	2	6	Aesthetics more important than cost
P-001-81	3	6	Create a visual/not physical texture to give the impression vehicles need to slow down without damaging vehicles
P-001-82	4	4	Boat ramp access
DUPLICATE	5	3	Intersection of Hwy 128 and US 191
P-001-83	6	3	A cobblestone texture on the bridge could be used to slow vehicles
DUPLICATE	7	3	Panels at courthouse wash
P-001-84	8	2	On/off highway on the west side-gradient difference
DUPLICATE	9	2	Determine traffic impacts from Cedeila Valley
DUPLICATE	10	2	Construction during off-peak seasons and days
P-001-85	11	2	Which is the most cost effective? 2-2 lane bridges or 1-4-lane?
DUPLICATE	12	2	Use existing bridge as pedestrian bridge both temporarily and permanently
DUPLICATE	13	2	Paths (bike/ped) going all the way into town on both sides of the highway
DUPLICATE	14	2	Impact on wetlands
DUPLICATE	15	1	Bridge at courthouse wash will have similar

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			considerations (needs to be expanded)
P-001-86	16	1	Replacing the bridge is positive-more people would walk/bike across
DUPLICATE	17	1	Has to meet the needs of the community by helping bikes and peds, but not impact landowners and business too much
DUPLICATE	18	1	Lions park adjacent to the bridge needs to be considered in the study.
DUPLICATE	19	1	Big Horn Sheep hits and watchers
DUPLICATE	20	1	Boat ramp access
DUPLICATE	21	1	Vintage look-Like Dewey
P-001-87	22	1	Low profile-doesn't stand out
P-001-88	23	1	Courthouse Wash trailhead maintenance
P-001-89	24	1	Truck access to propane
DUPLICATE	25	1	Bi-directional non-motorized travel
DUPLICATE	26	1	Small Construction footprint
DUPLICATE	27	1	Turn lane at 400 W. -500 W.
DUPLICATE	28	1	Pedestrian bridge the sooner the better
DUPLICATE	29	1	Light pollution
DUPLICATE	30	1	Signing for Archway Inn Frontage Road
DUPLICATE	31	1	6" West Intersection needs to be considered. It will access the new hospital.
P-001-90	32	1	Driveway spacing/grades (frontage roads)
DUPLICATE	33	1	Minimal and shielded lighting
DUPLICATE	34	1	Use drainage problems as landscaping asset
P-001-91	35	1	Old Spanish Trail
DUPLICATE	36	1	Wildlife access to the river-crossings and fencing
DUPLICATE	37	1	Threatened and endangered birds and fish
DUPLICATE	38	1	Boat traffic wipers-retain access under bridge
DUPLICATE	39	1	Increased truck noise and traffic for close home
DUPLICATE	40	1	Big horn sheep fencing
P-001-92	41	1	Texturize concrete
DUPLICATE	42	1	View from rafters/shoreline/ped bridge
DUPLICATE	43	1	Focus on seeing the river not the bridge
Comment Number	Number of Comments/Priority	# of Individual votes	Low Priority Issues
DUPLICATE	1	2	Intersection of Hwy 128 and US 191
DUPLICATE	2	2	On/off highway on the west side-gradient difference
P-001-93	3	1	Truck traffic

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DUPLICATE	4	1	No landscaped median-lose a lane and wastes water
DUPLICATE	5	1	Primary entrance to Moab
DUPLICATE	6	1	Color and lighting like surroundings
DUPLICATE	7	1	Light pollution
DUPLICATE	8	1	Impacts on nearby businesses
DUPLICATE	9	1	Signing for Archway Inn Frontage Road
P-001-94	10	3	The bike/ped path should be covered to keep kids from jumping off the bridge.
DUPLICATE	11	1	Larger street signs
P-001-95	12	1	The grand old ranch house
DUPLICATE	13	1	Old Spanish Trail
P-001-96	14	1	Canyonlands by night
P-001-97	15	1	May impact campground on the SW side of bridge
DUPLICATE	16	2	Build on both sides of the existing bridge and widen to the middle using the existing structure
DUPLICATE	17	2	Threatened and endangered birds and fish
DUPLICATE	18	1	Impact on wetlands
DUPLICATE	19	1	Hazardous waste site is limiting factor for alignment
DUPLICATE	20	1	Increased truck noise and traffic for close home.
P-001-98	21	1	Bridge freeboard adequate to allow boats underneath
P-001-99	22	1	Boat launch at lower courthouse
P-001-100	23	1	4 lanes may decrease noise by reducing truck brake use
DUPLICATE	24	1	Big horn sheep fencing
DUPLICATE	25	1	Texturize concrete
Comment Number	Number of Comments/Priority	# of Individual votes	Additional Issues
P-001-101	1		Possible development north of bridge
P-001-102	2		Bottomocks
P-001-103	3		Shoulder
P-001-104	4		NE corner road- low visibility
P-001-105	5		New commercial development planned on US 191 near the bridge
P-001-106	6		Early action needs
DUPLICATE	7		Turning lanes are needed near 400 West
DUPLICATE	8		Improvements needed at 5 th West for access to proposed new hospital
P-001-107	9		A passing lane is needed between 5 th West and 4 th West near new development.
P-001-108	10		The intersection of SR 128 and US 191 is a bad

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			Intersection.
P-001-109	11		5-lanes are needed near the campground on the southwest side of the bridge for bus and boat trailers to get up to speed from SR 128
P-001-110	12		Left turn lanes
P-001-111	13		Acceleration lane at Potash road - passing problems
P-001-112	14		Develop realistic ideas within the existing budget
P-001-113	15		More people-worse air
P-001-114	16		Keep traffic open by building new bridge before closing old bridge
P-001-115	17		Atlas tailing resolution might impact traffic if tailings are moved
P-001-116	18		Conflicts with utilities
P-001-117	19		Alternate Corridor
P-001-118	20		Can access to the wetland preserve be provided from US 191?
P-001-119	21		Mining vaults
P-001-120	22		Potash road and other recreation areas
P-001-121	23		No causeway to support build
P-001-122	24		Pipeline across (under) river
P-001-123	25		Wetland is adjacent to the crossing
P-001-124	26		Tourists will increase
P-001-125	27		Chaffin
P-001-126	28		Second access for emergencies
Comment Number	Number of Comments/Priority	# of Individual votes	Additional Issues: Raised and opposed
DUPLICATE	1	1	No landscaped median-lose a lane and wastes water
DUPLICATE	2	2	Chaffin
DUPLICATE	3	1	4 lanes may decrease noise by reducing truck brake use

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P001



Morb Project Office

Morb Project Office
P.O. Box 1329
Morb, Utah
84532

TEL 435 239-4629
FAX 435 239-2677

Utah Field Office
359 East South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah
84102

TEL 801 531-0999
FAX 801 531-1003

International Headquarters
Arlington, Virginia
Tel: 703 641-5300

MAR 19 2004

March 16, 2004

Nicole Donegan
c/o Colorado River Bridge Project
3995 South 700 East, Suite 100
Salt Lake City, UT 84107

Dear Ms. Donegan,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments during this public scoping period for the Colorado River Bridge Study. The Nature Conservancy (the Conservancy), has worked cooperatively in the past with the UDOT in Utah toward the conservation of biological resources, and has a lengthy involvement in land management issues. This is consistent with the Conservancy's stated mission, which is to maintain the existence of native plants and animals by conserving the habitats and ecological processes that they need to survive. The Conservancy also recognizes that conservation of scarce or sensitive biological resources must occur in conjunction with land-use activities that meet the social and economic needs of people.

Proceeding from this background, the Conservancy is interested in the following issues.

Protection of our private property and DWR property

- The Nature Conservancy and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources jointly own and manage an approximately 900 acre wetland preserve adjacent to the current river bridge. We are concerned about any potential impacts to our property as a result of construction and other activities associated with building a new bridge.
- Furthermore our property protects a significant wetland ecosystem along the Colorado River. Wetlands harbor an incredible diversity of plants and animals and provide a number of important functions including groundwater storage and release, flood water attenuation, filtration, and purification of water, to name a few. Any impacts to this system that would interrupt these natural functions would be considered unacceptable.

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P002-05

- Management concerns such as fire potential, access to existing utility lines, natural gas pipelines, hunter access on the north end, and access to wells and other infrastructure, require unimpeded access into our property. Consideration must be given to maintaining these entry points at all times during any construction of the river bridge and associated activities.

T & E and Special Status Species

The Conservancy would like to see primacy given to protection of Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive species where they may be adversely affected by any activities associated with the construction of the river bridge.

- Through our ecoregional planning efforts we have identified several endangered, threatened and sensitive species found both in the river and in the adjacent riparian area. These species include: Southwestern willow flycatcher, Lucy's warbler, neotropical migratory birds, bonytail chub, humpback chub, razorback sucker and pikeminnow. This study needs to take these species into consideration and ensure their protection before proceeding with plans for a new bridge.

Finally, we would like to offer a Preferred Alternative for your consideration as the study proceeds. To minimize impacts to the Matheson Wetlands Preserve including the concerns cited above, we recommend the new river bridge be built in place where the existing bridge now sits. Recognizing that there will be inconveniences no matter what alternative is selected, we feel this would create the minimal impact. Furthermore we recommend including in the design a pedestrian bridge that could be attached to the new bridge structure.

Once again, thank you for your consideration of these comments. We look forward to a productive working relationship as the Colorado River Bridge Study proceeds.

Sincerely,

Linda Whitham
San Rafael Area Program Manager
The Nature Conservancy

CC: Chris Montague, TNC in Utah Conservation Program Director



Colorado River Bridge Study
Scoping Town Meeting
March 3, 2004

What do you feel are the most important issues regarding the Colorado River Bridge?

its old

What alternatives do you suggest to improve the Colorado River Bridge?

New Bridge with 4 lanes
because of the traffic

Are you aware of any important wildlife, plant life, historical landmarks, cultural resources, archaeological artifacts, or other issues near the Colorado River Bridge?

No just west side

This study will also identify issues on US 191 from Potash Road to downtown Moab to address in separate projects (as funding becomes available). What do you feel are the most important issues regarding this study area?

Safe on and off for truck using it.

Please Turn To Other Side

COMMENT
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P003

P003-01

P003-02

P003-03

P003-04



MAR 08 2004

Additional comments (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Do it soon!

What other transportation projects should UDOT explore in the future?

4 lane to Crescent Jet

Leave this form in the drop box or
mail comments by April 2, 2004.

Please tell us how you found out about this Public Open House.

☐ Newspaper Announcement
☒ Posted Flyer

☐ Web site
☐ Other

Name: Jim Adamson

Organization: Health Dept

City, State, Zip: Moab UT 84532

Phone Number: 259-5602 Email: _____

Would you like to be added to our mailing list? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Mail to: Colorado River Bridge Project, 3995 South 700 East, Suite 100, Salt Lake City,
UT 84107 or comment on-line at www.udot.utah.gov/coloradoriverbridge

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P003

P003-05

P003-06



Utah Department of Transportation
US-191, Colorado River Bridge Study

Public Comment Form

**Colorado River Bridge Study
Scoping Town Meeting
March 3, 2004**

What do you feel are the most important issues regarding the Colorado River Bridge?

looks g Bridge 4-lanes

What alternatives do you suggest to improve the Colorado River Bridge?

*Bike path with cover so you
can't jump into the river*

Are you aware of any important wildlife, plant life, historical landmarks, cultural resources, archaeological artifacts, or other issues near the Colorado River Bridge?

no

This study will also identify issues on US 191 from Potash Road to downtown Moab to address in separate projects (as funding becomes available). What do you feel are the most important issues regarding this study area?

Please Turn To Other Side

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P004

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Project: BRF-019(23)128

AGENCY COORDINATION MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 15, 2004

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Grand County Council Chambers, Moab, Utah

Attendees:

Name	Representing	Phone Number
Phil Brueck	National Park Service	435-719-2133
Dave Wood	National Park Service	435-719-2133
Gary Cornell	Utah DNR Division Forestry, Fire, and State Lands	435-259-3766
Casey Ford	Utah DNR Division of Water Rights	435-637-1303
Irwin Stewart	US Department of Energy (Stoller Consultant)	435-259-5131
Russ Von Koch	Bureau of Land Management	435-259-2118
Jim Webster	National Park Service	435-719-2220
Kim Manwill	UDOT	435-893-4734
Myron Lee	UDOT	435-893-4702
Daryl Friant	UDOT	435-893-4714
Clark Mackay	UDOT	435-893-4705
Jerry Chaney	UDOT	801-985-4317
Clayton Wilson	UDOT	435-893-4744
Gerry Godzwon	HDR (UDOT Consultant) Project Manager	801-281-8892
Layne Jones	HDR (UDOT Consultant) Environmental Lead	801-281-8882

Purpose: Agency Scoping

Agenda:

- Introductions
- Preliminary Purpose and Need
- Scope of Study
- Project Organization
- Project Study Area
- Resource Agencies Contacted
- Identification of Resource-Specific Areas
- Schedule
- What We Need From You
- Questions and Discussion

Discussion

1. Laynee Jones discussed the agenda items and presentation materials. A copy of the presentation materials will be placed in the administrative file with these minutes and is



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April 15, 2004



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A001

A001-01



Project: BRF-019(23)128

available upon request.

2. ROW and Arches National Park. Phil Brueck said that there are right-of-way issues to be resolved between UDOT and Arches National Park boundary. Phil had previously submitted a map to HDR which shows the ROW conflicts. It was agreed that UDOT would get easements from NPS for any land needed for the project.
3. Easement from Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands. Gary Cornell said that an easement would be needed for impacts to sovereign lands. The sovereign lands would be associated with the Colorado River.
4. Cultural Resources. Jim Webster said that there are some cultural resources in the area: the old wagon road, a rock panel at Lower Courthouse Wash, and dinosaur tracks near Lower Courthouse Wash.
5. Gateway Plan. Russ Von Koch said that Moab City and Grand County have developed a plan entitled the Gateway plan that calls for a boulevard entry, landscaping, and bike lanes. UDOT's alternatives should address consistency with this plan.
6. Lions Park. Russ Von Koch said that Grand County was planning improvements to Lions Park on the north and south side of the river. Utah State University designed the alternatives.
7. Water Rights Permit. Casey Ford said that UDOT or its contractor would need to obtain a water right permit if the project used any water from the river. It may be possible to get a "temporary change" from Grand County's water right permit. The permit is dependant on the place of use and the activity. Daryl said that a permit from USFWS would also be required if there are threatened and endangered species in the river.
8. General Permit 40 for Stream Alteration. Casey said that a stream alteration permit would also be required for any modifications to the river. UDOT can apply to COE or UDWR for the permit. Laynee Jones said that COE deferred to UDWR on this project.
9. Lower Courthouse Wash Stream Alteration Permit. Casey said that Lower courthouse wash may also require a stream alteration permit since it is in a riparian environment.
10. Cultural Resources. Irwin Stewart said that the DOE conducted an archeological search of a large area near the Colorado River Bridge project for the purposes of their route assessment for the Moab mill tailings site. The contact person is Marilyn Kastens, 970-248-6781. BLM completed some archeological surveys and literature search for the pedestrian bridge also.
11. Bighorn Sheep. Phil Brueck said that there are bighorn sheep in the project area.
12. Traffic Survey. The NPS requested a copy of the results of the traffic study.
13. Lower Courthouse Wash. There is hiking access at Lower Courthouse Wash to the rock an panel and the Lower Courthouse Wash trailhead. This parking area may need to be expanded to allow for hikers and to serve as a staging area for bikers. This is outside the limits of Arches National Park.
14. Lions Park. Lions Park may also be used as a parking/staging area for bikers in the future.
15. BLM Kiosk. Russ Von Koch said that BLM is planning an information kiosk with short term parking area at the intersection of 191 and 279 (Potash Road). There is a small parcel of public land on this corner.
16. Daryl Friant asked the question of all the agencies attending if anyone saw a fatal flaw at this point with bridge locations. The agencies attending did not raise any fatal flaw concerns. Jim Webster asked to place the new bridge downstream of the current one, hence away from NPS property.

Action Items

1. Keith Montgomery. Investigate and determine location of the cultural resource sites



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April 15, 2004



COMMENT NUMBER

A001

A001-02

A001-03

A001-04

A001-05

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A001-16



Utah Department of Transportation
US-191, Colorado River Bridge Study

Project: BRF-019(23)128

and previous studies mentioned in the notes, if not already included in Class I report.

2. Matt Rifkin. Send NPS results of traffic study.

Distribution:

Attendees
John Gilmore, USDOE
Betsy Herrmann, USFWS
Val Payne, UDNR
Nick Mezei, USACOE
Keith Montgomery, Montgomery Archeological
Nicole Donegan, HDR
Matt Rifkin, Interplan
Project File

This report represents the understanding of the Preparer. If you feel that an item needs clarification or correction, please provide your comments to the Preparer in writing. The Preparer will resolve the issue and distribute the revised minutes in a legislative format.

**COMMENT
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A001

**COMMENT
NUMBER**

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Jones, Laynee G.

Subject: FW: Request for Overview

From: Jones, Laynee G.
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2004 10:59 AM
To: 'Steven Parkin'
Subject: RE: Request for Overview

Steven:

Here are the draft minutes. Would you like me to leave you on the distribution list for materials pertaining to this project?

Laynee
281-8892

From: Steven Parkin (<mailto:sparkin@utah.gov>)
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2004 10:29 AM
To: Jones, Laynee G.
Subject: Request for Overview

I respectfully request an email copy of prepared notes, minutes, letters or memos resulting from the scoping and public meetings which focus on the Colorado River Bridge Feasibility Study; mainly, the events of March 3rd. This is a request for overview only; no special care is needed to type/prepare any information that is not already in email-able format.

Steven Parkin
Division Of Air Quality



Agency Meeting
Minutes Mar 3 2...



Agency Scoping
Meeting Present...



Contacts for
Colorado River Br...

801-536-4014

COMMENT
NUMBER

A002

A002-01



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE AND STATE LANDS

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Kathleen Clarke
Executive Director
Arthur W. DyFaulst
State Forester/Director
Southeastern Area
1165 South Highway 191, Suite 6
Moab, Utah 84532-3082
435-259-3766
435-259-3755 (Fax)

Laynee Jones
HDR Engineering, Inc
3005 South 700 East, Suite 100
Salt Lake City, Ut 84107

Dear Ms. Jones:

The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands supports the concept that the highway bridge over the Colorado River will need to be replaced in the fore-seable future. This need is based on safety issues primarily dealing with its structural integrity, lane width standards/shoulders and the current bridge not accommodating pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as the capacity may not meet future travel demand. The lead contact for this project will be James Montella who may be reached by mail at 1165 So HWY 191, Suite 6, Moab, Ut 84532, phone 435-259-3762 or e-mail jamesmontella@utah.gov.

The Division has several issues that we are concerned about with this project. One concern is the potential impact on surface water flows into the Matheson Preserve. The construction and re-alignment of the bridge could have a negative affect on the preserve. The preserve is a critical use area by numerous birds and water fowl.

Another concern is the potential impact on various endangered fish in the river system. The project could have a negative impact on habitat and/or reproduction.

We would encourage you to work with the appropriate entities on determining if any negative impacts may occur and the mitigation of these impacts.

A concern may exist if construction work occurs during the summer when a wildfire hazard may exist in the riparian zone. Equipment and workers could pose a risk of starting a fire along the river. This concern may be mitigated by using some standard fire prevention actions.

Sincerely,

Gary Cornell

Gary Cornell
Area Manager SE

COMMENT
NUMBER

A003

A003-01

A003-02

A003-03



State of Utah

DEENE S. WALKER
Governor

GAYLE McKEACHNIE
Lieutenant Governor

Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

WES CURTIS
State Planning Coordinator

Resource Development Coordinating Committee

GLADE SOWARDS
Committee Chairman

JOHN A. HARJA
Executive Director

March 24, 2004

Laynee Jones
HDR Engineering, Inc.
3995 South 700 East, Suite 100
Salt Lake City, Utah 84107

SUBJECT: Colorado River Bridge Feasibility Study, Moab, Utah
Project No. 04-3713

Dear Ms. Jones:

The Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC), representing the State of Utah, has reviewed this proposal, and state agencies comments are as follows:

Utah Geological Survey, Environmental Sciences Program

There are known significant vertebrate track localities in the highway right-of-way adjacent to the Colorado River Bridge. The office of the State Paleontologist therefore recommends that potential impacts to paleontological resources be identified as one of issues to be addressed in this feasibility study.

Division of Parks and Recreation

We encourage wide pedestrian/bike lanes in association with the motor vehicle bridge for north-south and east-west bike traffic--consistent with the Governor's Olympic Trail Initiative.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity to review this proposal. Please direct any other written questions regarding this correspondence to the Resource Development Coordinating Committee at the above address or call Carolyn Wright at (801) 538-5535 or myself at (801) 538-5559.

Sincerely,

John Harja
Executive Director
Resource Development Coordinating Committee

COMMENT
NUMBER

A004

Jones, Laynee G.

To: Casey Ford
Subject: RE: Colorado River Bridge - Final Agency Scoping Minutes March 3

Casey. Thanks for the comments. I'll revise the minutes for the admin. File.

-----Original Message-----

From: Casey Ford [mailto:caseyford@utah.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2004 11:19 AM
To: Jones, Laynee G.
Subject: Re: Colorado River Bridge - Final Agency Scoping Minutes March 3

Laynee,

Your meeting minutes explain my comments fairly well. There are a few notes that I have added in italics or strikout font. Otherwise, I don't have anything else.

1. Water Rights Permit. Casey Ford said that UDOT or its contractor would need to obtain a water right permit if the project used any water from the river. An existing water right could be used if it conformed to the nature of use, place of use, period of use, and point of diversion. Or, it may be possible to get a "temporary change" from Grand County's water right permit. The permit is dependant on the place of use and the activity. Daryl said that a permit from USFWS would also be required if there are threatened and endangered species in the river.
2. General Permit 40 for Stream Alteration. Casey said that a stream alteration permit would also be required for any modifications to the river bed or banks, including the riparian zone. UDOT can apply to COE or UDWR for the permit. Laynee Jones said that COE deferred to UDWR on this project.
3. Lower Courthouse Wash Stream Alteration Permit. Casey said that Lower courthouse wash may also require a stream alteration permit since it is in a riparian environment.

Casey Ford, PE
435.637.1303 wk
435.637.7937 fax
caseyford@utah.gov
<http://www.waterrights.utah.gov>

A004-01

A004-02

COMMENT
NUMBER

A005

A005-01

A005-02

A005-03



U.S. Department of Energy
2597 B 1/2 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Ms. Laynee Jones
3995 South 700 East, Suite 100
Salt Lake City, UT 84107

Dear Ms. Jones:

I am sorry I wasn't able to attend the meeting in Moab on Wednesday. Irwin Stewart who attended in my stead, told me that he was able to meet with you. I have enclosed with this letter an aerial photo and a map of the proposed pipeline that I believe you will find useful in planning the highway 191 improvements in the mill site vicinity. If you need any further information, don't hesitate to write or call me at 970/248-6027.

Sincerely,


John Gilmore P.E.
Project Manager

cc:
MOA2.16 (DOE)

Gilmore/LayneJr.doc

COMMENT
NUMBER

A006

A006-01

FW: Draft Agency Scoping Minutes March 3

Page 1 of 2

Jones, Laynee G.

To: Mezel, Nick SPK

Subject: RE: Draft Agency Scoping Minutes March 3

Nick:

Thanks for your comment. We recognize that a 404 permit for impacts to wetlands may be required for this project and that the 404 permit comes from the Corps. We will contact you when we determine what the potential wetland impacts will be.

Laynee

From: Mezel, Nick SPK [mailto:Nick.Mezel@usace.army.mil]

Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2004 11:01 AM

To: Jones, Laynee G.

Subject: RE: Draft Agency Scoping Minutes March 3

Laynee:

Thank you for the minutes of the meeting. Please be aware that GP-40 is a stream alteration permit having to do with discharges into streams, not wetlands. So - if there are any wetlands that will be impacted by the project, 404 permits for wetland impacts must be obtained from the Corps, not the state. Please let me know if wetland impacts will occur with this project.

Thanks,
Nick

Nick.Mezel@usace.army.mil
970.243.1199 x-13

-----Original Message-----

From: Jones, Laynee G. [mailto:Laynee.Jones@hdrinc.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2004 10:34 AM

To: Mezel, Nick

Subject: FW: Draft Agency Scoping Minutes March 3

From: Jones, Laynee G.

Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2004 10:33 AM

To: 'Betty_Herrmann@fws.gov'; 'Casey Ford'; 'darkmacky@utah.gov'; 'Clayton Wilson'; 'Daryl Friant'; 'Dave Wood'; 'Donegan, Nicole'; 'Gary Cornell'; 'Godzwon, Gerald'; 'Irwin Stewart'; 'jcharney@utah.gov'; 'jim_webster@nps.gov'; 'john.gilmore@doe.gov'; 'Keith and Jackie Montgomery (kmontgomery@montarch.com)'; 'Kim Marwill'; 'jones@hdrinc.com'; 'moab@interplanco.com'; 'myron@utah.gov'; 'nick.mezel@usace.mil'; 'Phil Brueck'; 'russ_von_jach@jtn.gov'; 'valpaysa@utah.gov'

Subject: Draft Agency Scoping Minutes March 3

Please respond with any comments you have on the attached minutes before close of business Monday


3/16/2004

COMMENT
NUMBER

A007

A007-01

	COMMENT NUMBER		COMMENT NUMBER
<p>Jones, Laynee G.</p> <hr/> <p>From: Lowell Braxton [lowellbraxton@utah.gov] Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2004 1:24 PM To: Jones, Laynee G. Subject: RE: Scoping Comments Colorado River Bridge Feasibility Study, Moab, Utah</p> <p>Laynee, Please send to Bob Morgan with a copy to Val Payne at the same address. Thanks</p> <p>>>> "Jones, Laynee G." <Laynee.Jones@hdrinc.com> 03/02/04 12:46PM >>> Lowell:</p> <p>Thank you for your response. I will keep UDNR on the agency correspondence list for the project. Should future correspondence be addressed to you or Bob Morgan or both?</p> <p>Laynee Jones 801-281-8892 x136</p> <p>-----Original Message----- From: Lowell Braxton [mailto:lowellbraxton@utah.gov] Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2004 12:03 PM To: Jones, Laynee G. Cc: Bob Morgan; Val Payne Subject: Scoping Comments Colorado River Bridge Feasibility Study, Moab, Utah</p> <p>Laynee, I am responding to your letter asking for scoping comments for the above Feasibility Study, per your letter to Bob Morgan, Executive Director, Utah Department of Natural Resources. Any construction activity in the Colorado River corridor must weigh the benefits to human health and safety against the possible environmental impacts. Increased vehicular and non-motorized traffic in the area of the proposed study clearly support the Feasibility Study, and the Utah Department of Natural Resources is supportive of the study on this basis.</p> <p>As indicated in your letter, the juxtaposition of the Arches National Park entrance, the Matheson Wetlands Preserve and the Grand County Lions Park to the project plus the value of the river corridor and its use by wildlife all support careful environmental analysis should the project proceed beyond the Feasibility Study phase. The Utah Department of Natural Resources will be an active player in any NEPA environmental analysis subsequent to scoping. We have no plans to attend the March 3 scoping meeting in Moab, however. Please keep the Utah Department of Natural Resources on your correspondence list for this project, and thank you for the opportunity of providing this comment.</p> <p>Lowell Braxton Director, Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining</p>	<p>A008</p> <p>A008-01</p> <p>A008-02</p> <p>A008-03</p>	<p>Jones, Laynee G.</p> <hr/> <p>From: Loren Morton [lmorton@utah.gov] Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2004 5:44 PM To: Jones, Laynee G. Cc: Donald.Metzler@gjo.doe.gov; Dana Finerfrock; Daryl Frantz; Kim Manwill Subject: UDOT EIS for Moab Bridge Improvements</p> <p>Laynee,</p> <p>This email is in response to your February 13 letter regarding the upcoming NEPA public scoping process for the proposed improvements for Highway 191 bridge over the Colorado River near Moab, Utah.</p> <p>We appreciate your invitation to participate in this process. However, we would suggest that you would be better served by involving the staff of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in Grand Junction Colorado, who own and operate the nearby Moab Tailings site found a short distance north of the bridge.</p> <p>Currently, DOE staff are in process of preparing a draft Environmental Impact Statement for reclamation of the historic Moab Tailings site. These reclamation activities may include a significant amount of truck traffic during haulage of either the tailings to another location, or for import of cover system borrow materials from gravel pits found in the southern portion of Spanish Valley. I would recommend you contact the following staff at the DOE Grand Junction Office:</p> <p>Don Metzler Project Manager Grand Junction Office U.S. Department of Energy 2597 E 3/4 Road Grand Junction, CO 81503 970-248-7612 Donald.Metzler@gjo.doe.gov</p> <p>If you have questions, please call me at the number below. Thanks again for the invitation to participate in the upcoming NEPA process.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Loren Morton Utah Division of Radiation Control Phone 801-536-4262 Fax 801-533-4097 Email lmorton@utah.gov</p>	<p>A009</p> <p>A009-01</p> <p>A009-02</p>

	COMMENT NUMBER		COMMENT NUMBER
<p>US 191 bridge improvement scoping comments</p> <p>Page 1 of 1</p> <p>Jones, Laynee G.</p> <hr/> <p>From: Mezei, Nick SPK [Nick.Mezei@usace.army.mil] Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2004 10:03 AM To: Jones, Laynee G. Subject: US 191 bridge improvement scoping comments</p> <p>Laynee:</p> <p>Sorry I missed your scoping meeting yesterday. I would like to forward several comments to you to consider as part of the scoping process.</p> <p>1. The Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act extends to regulating of fills in jurisdictional wetlands, and in rivers and streams below the level of the ordinary high water elevation. Excavation is not regulated unless there is a fill associated. Activities falling within our jurisdiction require a Department of the Army permit (404 permit) in order to be compliant with the Clean Water Act. In the State of Utah, the Corps and the state share a general permit for stream modifications, and the state typically takes the lead for stream modification activities.</p> <p>2. Based on conversations, it appears that there may be wetland areas along the river channel in the vicinity of the bridge over the Colorado River, which may be impacted by bridge modification. There may be other locations along the proposed 3 mile stretch of highway that may involve wetland areas also. In addition, fills below the ordinary high water level of the river, such as piers and cofferdams, are also regulated.</p> <p>3. A mapping of the jurisdictional areas, and delineation of wetlands if any exist, within the work corridor is highly recommended, in order to assess whether a 404 permit may be required. If impacts can be avoided, then such actions must be taken. If impacts cannot be reasonably be avoided, then permitting and mitigation of impacts must be considered. Even if impacts can be avoided, mapping of jurisdictional areas can be valuable so that workers in the vicinity can be instructed to avoid the jurisdictional areas.</p> <p>4. Temporary work in waters of the U.S. may also be regulated, even if there will not be permanent impacts.</p> <p>5. It is our understanding that the reach of the Colorado River in the project area is critical habitat for several native fish, and we recommend that you contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine their concerns, in case you have not yet done so.</p> <p>It is the intent of the Corps of Engineers to cooperate with potential permit applicants to attain project goals in an environmentally sensitive manner. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments relating to your project.</p> <p>Nick</p> <p>Nick.Mezei@usace.army.mil 970.243.1199 x-13</p> <p>3/10/2004</p>	<p>A010</p> <p>A010-01</p> <p>A010-02</p> <p>A010-03</p> <p>A010-04</p> <p>A010-05</p>	<div>  <div> United States Department of the Interior FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE UTAH FIELD OFFICE 3369 WEST ORTON CIRCLE, SUITE 30 WEST VALLEY CITY, UTAH 84119 </div> </div> <p>In Reply Refer To: FWS/R6 ES/LT 04-0355</p> <p>April 2, 2004</p> <p>Laynee Jones HDR Engineering, Inc. 3995 South 700 East, Suite 100 Salt Lake City, Utah 84107</p> <p>RE: Colorado River Bridge Feasibility Study, Moab, Utah</p> <p>Dear Ms. Jones:</p> <p>The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the scoping documents related to the feasibility study for improvements to the US-191 crossing of the Colorado River, near Moab, Utah. The purpose of the project is to correct structural deficiencies in the current bridge. We understand you have already received a species list from this office. We are providing the following comments for your consideration in your environmental analysis.</p> <p>In Section 1 of this letter we convey our concerns that should be addressed in the NEPA compliance document for this project. Section 2 of this letter addresses your Endangered Species Act (ESA) section 7 responsibilities.</p> <p><u>Section 1.</u> This reach of the river lies within critical habitat for the Colorado pikeminnow, bonytail chub, and razorback sucker, where they are known to occur and spawning may take place. The construction activities for both projects could affect physical habitat and water quality. Construction of a new bridge structure could result in the following effects on species within the project area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss, modification, and degradation within designated critical habitat. Lethal or sublethal water or soil contamination from the construction operations. Even small, nonlethal amounts of contaminants may impair olfactory responses of the fish with potential behavior and reproductive success implications. 	<p>A011</p> <p>A011-01</p> <p>A011-02</p>

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3. Channel bottom disturbance and flow alterations will occur due to cofferdam construction and permanent bridge foundations in the riverbed. Excessive sedimentation could inhibit the prey base for fish species by filling interstitial spaces where macroinvertebrates reside, as well as reducing potential spawning habitat. Dewatering may negatively affect migration.

The feasibility of combining this project with the nearby proposed pedestrian bridge project should be examined. We note that the pedestrian bridge is projected to begin construction within two years, thereby precluding combining the two projects. If, however, this project is delayed such that combining the two bridges could become feasible, we encourage UDOT and FHWA to consider an integrated bicycle-pedestrian-motorized function for a single bridge at the US-191 crossing. Combining the two structures into one would: require only one set of bridge foundations; constrict the river in only one location; and reduce the number of cofferdam intrusions during construction. With the two projects being in relatively close proximity, we recommend keeping open the possibility of satisfying the needs of the two projects with one structure. This would be the least impactful alternative relative to fish and wildlife.

The proposed project is within the migratory and breeding range of the Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii eximius*), a small bird that inhabits riparian areas in southern Utah. Southwestern willow flycatcher breeding habitat is typified by areas of dense riparian vegetation. Breeding sites are normally near standing water or saturated soil. Please review the proposed action and determine if the action could have an impact on potential Southwestern willow flycatcher habitat.

We recommend that your environmental analysis specifically examine potential short-term and long-term impacts to migratory birds and their habitat. The analysis should identify any conservation and mitigation measures in the alternatives aimed at conserving migratory bird habitats and populations. The *Utah Partners in Flight Avian Conservation Strategy* (Parrish et al., 2002) may be useful in preparing this analysis.

In addition, we recommend use of the *Utah Field Office Guidelines for Raptor Protection from Human and Land Use Disturbances* (Romin and Muck, 2002) which were developed in part to provide consistent application of raptor protection measures statewide and provide full compliance with environmental laws regarding raptor protection. Raptor surveys and mitigation measures are provided in the Raptor Guidelines as recommendations to ensure that proposed projects will avoid adverse impacts to raptors.

Section 2.

Federal agencies have specific additional responsibilities under section 7 of the ESA. To help you fulfill these responsibilities, we are providing an updated list of threatened (T), endangered (E) and candidate (C) species that may occur within the area of influence of your proposed action.

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A011-06

A011-07

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Jones Cycladenia	<i>Cycladenia humilis</i> var. <i>jonesii</i>	T
Bonytail ^{1,2}	<i>Gila elegans</i>	E
Colorado Pikeminnow ^{1,2}	<i>Psychocheilus lucius</i>	E
Humpback Chub ^{1,2}	<i>Gila cypha</i>	E
Razorback Sucker ^{1,2}	<i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	E
Bald Eagle ³	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T
California Condor ⁴	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	E
Gunnison Sage Grouse	<i>Centrocercus minimus</i>	C
Mexican Spotted Owl ^{1,3}	<i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	T
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii eximius</i>	E
Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	C
Black-footed Ferret ⁵	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	E

¹ Critical habitat designated in this county.

² Water depletions from any portion of the occupied drainage basin are considered to adversely affect or adversely modify the critical habitat of the endangered fish species, and must be evaluated with regard to the criteria described in the pertinent fish recovery programs.

³ Nests in this county of Utah.

⁴ Experimental nonessential population.

⁵ Historical range.

The proposed action should be reviewed and a determination made if the action will affect any listed species or their critical habitat. If it is determined by the Federal agency, with the written concurrence of the Service, that the action is not likely to adversely affect listed species or critical habitat, the consultation process is complete, and no further action is necessary.

Formal consultation (50 CFR 402.14) is required if the Federal agency determines that an action is "likely to adversely affect" a listed species or will result in jeopardy or adverse modification of critical habitat (50 CFR 402.02). Federal agencies should also confer with the Service on any action which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat (50 CFR 402.10). A written request for formal consultation or conference should be submitted to the Service with a completed biological assessment and any other relevant information (50 CFR 402.12).

Candidate species have no legal protection under the ESA. Candidate species are those species for which we have on file sufficient information to support issuance of a proposed rule to list under the ESA. Identification of candidate species can assist environmental planning efforts by providing advance notice of potential listings, allowing resource managers to alleviate threats and, thereby, possibly remove the need to list species as endangered or threatened. Even if we subsequently list this candidate species, the early notice provided here could result in fewer restrictions on activities by prompting candidate conservation measures to alleviate threats to this species.

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Only a Federal agency can enter into formal ESA section 7 consultation with the Service. A Federal agency may designate a non-Federal representative to conduct informal consultation or prepare a biological assessment by giving written notice to the Service of such a designation. The ultimate responsibility for compliance with ESA section 7, however, remains with the Federal agency.

Your attention is also directed to section 7(d) of the ESA, as amended, which underscores the requirement that the Federal agency or the applicant shall not make any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources during the consultation period which, in effect, would deny the formulation or implementation of reasonable and prudent alternatives regarding their actions on any endangered or threatened species.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. If you need further assistance, please contact Betsy Herrmann, Ecologist, at the letterhead address or (801) 975-3330 ext. 139.

Sincerely,



Henry R. Maddux
Utah Field Supervisor

cc: UDWR - SLC

A011-08

Literature Cited

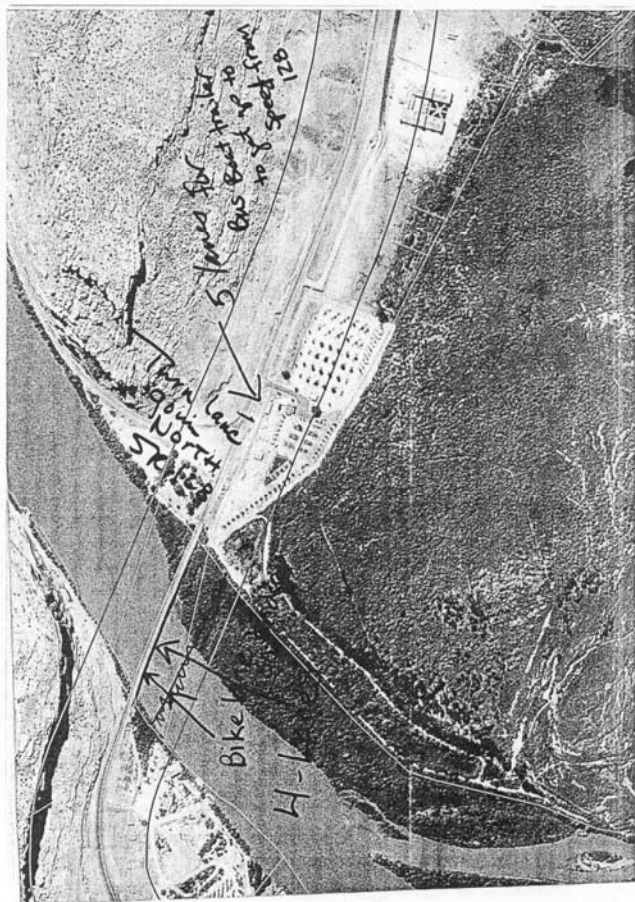
Partish, J.R., F.P. Howe, and R.E. Noryell. 2002. Utah Partners in Flight Avian Conservation Strategy Version 2.0. Utah Partners in Flight Program, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Salt Lake City, Utah. UDWR Pub. No. 02-27.

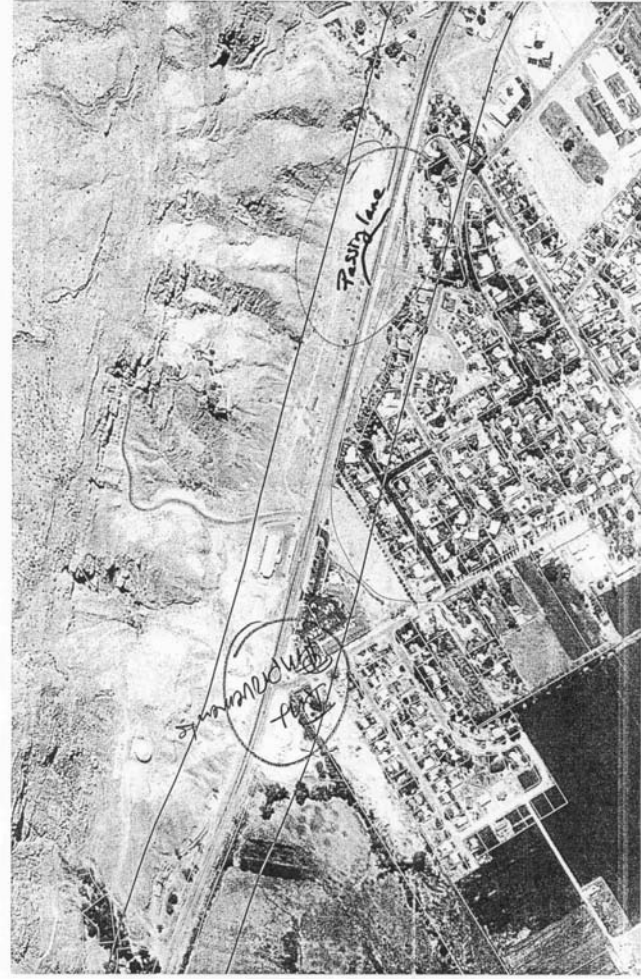
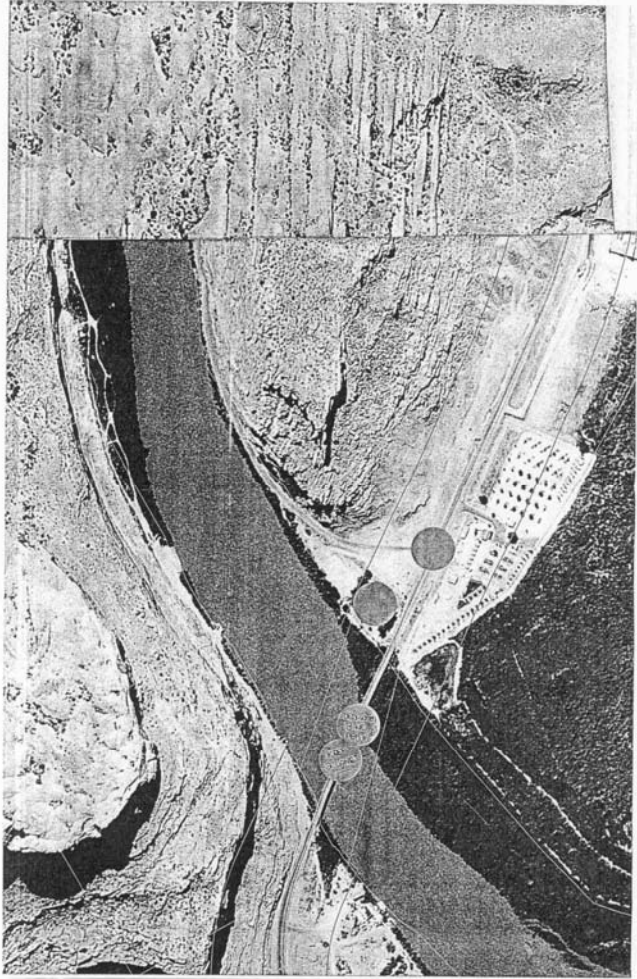
Romin, L.A., and J.A. Muck. 2002. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Utah field office guidelines for raptor protection from human and land use disturbances.

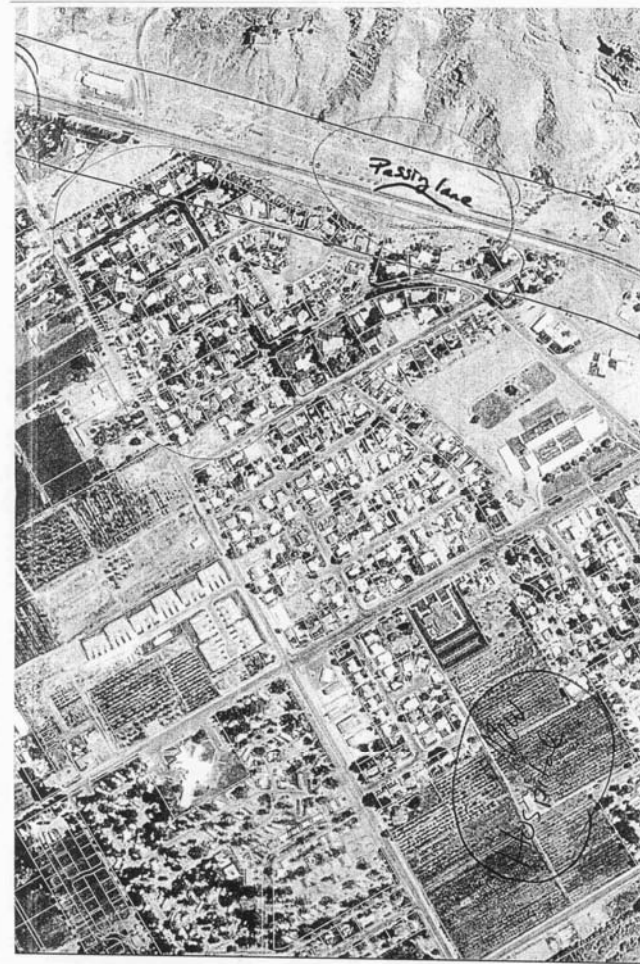
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B.3 Comments on Maps at Workshops







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